DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name:

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

| | | HIGH STR | ENGTH DIME | NSIONALLY STABLE | CORE |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| the specification | n of whic | ch is attached hereto | o unless the follo | wing box is checked: | |
| | [X] | was filed onas United States PCT Internation and was amende (if applicable). | Application Number 1 Application N | mber or | 3/034318 |
| amended by any | | reviewed and unde nent referred to abo | | nts of the above-identified | specification, including the claims, as |
| of Federal Regu | | | disclose informa | ation which is material to p | atentability as defined in Title 37, Code |
| least one countrapplication for | tion(s) fo y other tl patent o | r patent or inventor nan the United State | 's certificate, or 3 es, listed below a | 365(a) of any PCT Interna .nd have also identified be | s Code, 3 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any tional application which designated at flow, by checking the box, any foreign wing a filing date before that of the |
| Prior Foreign 2 | Applicat | cion(s) | | | Priority Not Claimed |
| (Number) | | (Country) | | (Day/Month/Year) | [] |
| (Number) | | (Country) | | (Day/Month/Year) | [] |
| (Number) | _ | (Country) | | (Day/Month/Year) | [] |
| provisional appl | | | fit under Title 3 | 5, United States Code, 9 | Section 119(e) of any United States |
| | Provision | nal Application(s) | | | |
| United States I | 10 113101 | •• | | | |
| United States F 60/422 | | •• | | October 31, 2 | 2002 |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, ≥ 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, > 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, > 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

| United | States | Application(s |) |
|--------|--------|---------------|---|
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| (Appl. Ser.No.) | (Filing Date) | (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned) |
|-----------------|---------------|---|
| (Appl. Ser.No.) | (Filing Date) | (Status) (patented, pending, abandoned) |

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

I hereby appoint the attorneys/agents listed under Customer No. 24978, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence and telephone calls in respect to this application be directed to Paul G. Juettner, GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD., Suite 2500, 300 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606, Telephone No. (312) 360-0080.

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